



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

American School
for Oriental Study and Research
in Palestine

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR
OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR ORIENTAL
STUDY AND RESEARCH IN PALESTINE

To the Managing Committee of the American School in Palestine :

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to present the following report of my administration of the affairs of the American School in Palestine during the first year of its existence ; namely, the year beginning October 1, 1900.

Acting upon the advice of your Committee, and after consultation with Mr. Oscar Straus, United States Minister to Turkey, I proceeded first to Constantinople, in order to acquaint the Turkish Government with the character and aims of the proposed American School for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine, and to secure, if possible, the official permit, or firman, for its establishment. In addition to my credentials as Director of the School, and copies of the various printed circulars, etc., previously issued by your Committee, I was provided with letters from Minister Straus and from our Secretary of State, John Hay. Arriving in Constantinople, September 21, I was at once assured of the hearty coöperation of the representative of our Government there, Mr. Lloyd C. Griscom, chargé d'affaires at the United States Legation during the absence of Mr. Straus in America. During the whole course of the negotiations with the Turkish Government on behalf of our enterprise, Mr. Griscom manifested a keen interest in the projected School, and showed himself an untiring and efficient helper.

The one officer of the Turkish Government whom it was most important for me to see, His Excellency Osman Hamdy Bey, Director of the Imperial Ottoman Museum, was absent from Constantinople when I arrived, and for some time after. It was not until the latter part of October that he returned, and I was able to bring before him the business with which I was entrusted.

As it became evident that the hoped-for firman would be long in coming, to say the least, I decided to proceed, without further delay, to Syria, and take whatever steps might be possible toward establishing the School in Jerusalem. Hamdy Bey expressed his approval of this plan; and Mr. Griscom assured me that he himself could and would do all that remained to be done in the interest of our project, so that no advantage would be sacrificed by my departure from the city. Accordingly, after leaving in his hands the papers which I had prepared for the Minister of Public Instruction, I sailed from Constantinople on the 26th of October, and arrived in Beyrout on the 30th.

Owing in part, no doubt, to the fact that the announcement of the opening of the School in Palestine had been made so late in the season (May, 1900), no intending students had applied to the Committee at the time when I left the United States. Before my departure from Constantinople, and again on my arrival in Beyrout, telegrams from Dr. Selah Merrill, United States Consul in Jerusalem, informed me that no students had as yet made their appearance in that city. I therefore welcomed the opportunity to stay for a few days in Beyrout and consult with the officers of the Syrian Protestant College, whom I found much interested in our undertaking, cordial in their expressions of sympathy with it, and ready to give many valuable suggestions out of their long experience. From Beyrout I went to Sidon, and thence, after a short stay, went on to Jerusalem overland, taking the route along the coast. My companions during this part of the journey were Professor J. R. Jewett, of the University of Minne-

sota, and Mr. W. K. Eddy, one of the American missionaries in Sidon. Professor Jewett, who had been in Beyrout since the beginning of the fall, and was intending to spend the winter there in philological and literary research, had expressed to me, before his departure from the United States in the early summer, his intention to be enrolled as a special student of the School. He has since put the result of his Syrian studies, a new collection of native proverbs, at the disposal of our School, to be published under its auspices.

Arriving in Jerusalem, November 15, I took rooms in the Grand New Hotel; recommended for the temporary home of our School by the fact that it has been the headquarters of the Palestine Exploration Fund, as well as by the residence in it of United States Consul Merrill, himself well known as an explorer and an author of books relating to the geography and antiquities of Palestine and Syria. Our School will find in Dr. Merrill a warm friend and an experienced helper. Throughout my stay in Jerusalem his counsel and ready assistance were of the greatest value to me. In the absence of students, my duties as Director, for the next few weeks, consisted chiefly in providing for the school library, and in becoming as well acquainted in the city as possible, especially with all those who might eventually be interested, in one way or another, in our undertaking.

The sum of \$500 had been appropriated and put at my disposal by the Committee for the beginning of a library. I purchased with this about 150 volumes, selecting the most necessary working tools for the study of the geography, history, and antiquities of Syria and Palestine; the Bible, both Old Testament and New Testament; Semitic philology; and epigraphy, especially Semitic. The most of these books were bought in Germany; some, however, were brought by me from the United States; others were purchased in Beyrout, and a few in Jerusalem. A complete list of them has been sent to the Chairman of your Committee. The British Palestine Exploration Fund had generously agreed some time ago to present our School

with a complete set of its publications (excepting the Quarterly Statements). In the early part of the winter I wrote to their Secretary, Mr. Armstrong, in regard to the matter, and received a prompt reply, asking how the books should be sent. I returned the necessary directions, but the books were not sent until after my departure from the country. I have recently heard from my successor, Professor Mitchell, that he has received them.

The library is provided with a good stamp, procured in Boston; so that all our books are marked as belonging to the "American School in Palestine: Library."

Fortunately, our students will not be obliged to content themselves with the books which our limited funds can bring together. There are other libraries in and about Jerusalem to which they can have free access. The most important of these are: (1) The Greek Patriarchal Library, with its great store of manuscripts. (2) The library of the "École Biblique" of the Dominican brethren. This contains a good many important works of reference, editions of texts, and the like; and its owners are most cordial in the hospitality they extend to those outside their number who may wish to use it. There are also the libraries of (3) the Franciscans, (4) the French Hospice, and (5) the Latin Patriarchate, all of which might occasionally be found useful for our purposes. There is furthermore a circulating library of books belonging to the Palestine Exploration Fund, kept in a small room near the Austrian Post Office.

There are other ways in which our limited resources will be supplemented from without. The Roman Catholics, and especially the Dominicans, in Jerusalem are doing much to encourage archaeological and linguistic studies, and among them are some very active and able scholars. Their "Revue Biblique" devotes considerable space to researches in these fields. In the Dominican school, a course of a dozen lectures, more or less, on subjects connected with the history and antiquities of Palestine, open to the public and generally well attended, is given every

year. During the past winter, such subjects as "The Moabite Stone," "The Return of the Jews from the Exile," "The Aqueducts of Jerusalem," "Cyril of Seythopolis," "Arabic Words in the European Languages," and others of like interest, were ably treated. In the basement of the new French Hospice, on the northwest side of the city, a museum of Palestinian antiquities has recently been fitted up. This contains a small but well arranged collection of coins; numerous inscriptions, Greek, Roman, and Arabic; weapons and utensils excavated here and there in the land, including some of pre-Israelite origin; and a very good collection of squeezes of inscriptions. An especially important addition to the archaeological resources of Jerusalem has still more recently been made in the opening, last year, by the Turkish Government, of a small museum containing a part of the finds made by Dr. Bliss in his excavations for the Palestine Exploration Fund. This museum, which occupies a room in the Mohammedan School, near the Gate of Herod, contains a noteworthy collection of Palestinian pottery, arranged and catalogued by Dr. Bliss himself. The considerable collection of antiquities belonging to Baron Ustinow, of Jaffa, which he readily exhibits to those who are interested, deserves also to be mentioned among the archaeological resources of Jerusalem and the vicinity. It may also be added, that both Egypt and Beyrout can be reached in a day, from Jerusalem; and that the officers of the American College in the latter city have given us a most cordial invitation to avail ourselves of their excellent library and growing collections.

The question of permanent quarters for the School proved a difficult one. The Grand New Hotel, though an excellent location for the institution so long as it consisted merely of a Director and a library, would be ill-suited to the uses of a school with students and classes—even if it were thought desirable, on general grounds, to look to a hotel for our temporary home. During the winter I looked at all the apparently desirable houses or suites of rooms which I could learn were for sale or to let, in and about the city. The price

generally paid for three or four good sized rooms, in the most desirable quarters, north and northwest of the city, ranges from \$80 to \$160 a year. A house of the usual type, with a large central room and four or five smaller rooms, can be had for \$100 to \$250. I was more than once nearly at the point of striking a bargain, but concluded each time that the opportunity was hardly good enough to justify the venture. I finally secured the refusal of a suite of rooms, which seemed to me the most desirable I had seen, in the new Park Hotel, outside the Jaffa gate; leaving it to my successor to take them or not, as he might choose.

In the month of January, I received a letter from Mr. Griscom, saying that the Turkish Minister of Public Instruction had finally announced that he could do nothing in regard to the American "Institute" in Palestine, since he had no authority to grant a firman for such an undertaking. This meant that permission to establish the School could be given only in the form of an Imperial iradé. With regard to this, Mr. Griscom added, that the attempt to obtain it would involve a long struggle, lasting in all probability for years, and of doubtful issue at best. He expressed his willingness to make the effort, however, if we deemed it necessary. I replied that we would make no further application at present; and the Chairman of your Committee, to whom I at once wrote for instructions, approved this decision. There seems to be no reason, indeed, why we should provide our Legation at Constantinople with any such task, in view of the nature and aims of our School. There are prominent educational institutions, of long standing, in the Turkish domain, founded and conducted by foreigners, which have never received any official authorization, nor suffered for the lack of it.

On January 15, I left Jerusalem for Sidon, an unusual opportunity of archaeological investigation having presented itself there.

Returning to Jerusalem on March 6, I remained there until the middle of April, when the tourist season was nearly ended.

Many American travellers manifested considerable interest in the School and its prospects. I have no doubt that along with such expressions of interest will come substantial gifts, when students are in attendance and at work, and the needs and claims of the School are more manifest.

That Jerusalem is, on the whole, the best place for our School, at least for the present, I became more and more firmly convinced. The location is healthful, and the climate one which Occidentals will find very comfortable during the greater part of the year, and not intolerable even in the summer months. Mention has already been made above of some of the literary and archaeological resources of the city. The fact should be added, that the opportunity of studying old monuments *in situ* afforded by Jerusalem is a consideration of no small importance; the more so, as new material is constantly coming to light. During the past winter two or three important archaeological discoveries were made in and about the city. This is the central point, moreover, from which the most of the practicable tours through Palestine or across the Jordan can most advantageously be made. The carriage roads to Jericho and Hebron have made some of the shorter excursions much easier, and a road to Nabulus is now being built. In regard to the comforts and conveniences of life, the city has not much to boast of, it is true; the guest of any one of the principal hotels, however, will find himself well taken care of. The number of shops of the European sort has greatly increased during recent years, and it is possible now to buy most of the things which either tourists or temporary residents would require.

It is of great importance that we should soon occupy suitable quarters, where the School can have its recognized home. These quarters should include a reception room, where occasional lectures, open to the public, can be given, and where friends of the School and transient visitors (of whom there would undoubtedly be many in the tourist season) can be received; a work-room, containing the library; the Director's study; and one or more bedrooms. A house, or part of a

house, answering these requirements fairly well could probably be hired by the year, or purchased at a reasonable price. Real estate in the new quarters of the city has been increasing in value recently, and there is considerable activity in building. The desirable houses and sites are becoming more and more difficult to secure.

Another pressing need is that Fellowships for students of this School should be established and maintained in our leading universities and theological schools. Until this is done, it is not likely that we shall have more than a very few students in residence, because of the expense of the long journey and of living in Jerusalem. It is not advisable to try to live cheaply in any Syrian city, and in Jerusalem the scale of prices is not low, though very reasonable. Board and room at a hotel can be had, by those who stay during a considerable part of the year, for from five to eight francs a day, and it is better to pay the latter price. The average total expense of the year, including the journey back and forth and the indispensable excursions in the land, would probably be somewhere between \$700 and \$800 for each student; and the number of those who could afford to pay this amount out of their own pockets would certainly be very small.

After the middle of April, I spent most of the remaining time in inland travel, chiefly in central Syria. Leaving Jerusalem finally on June 4, I returned to this country by way of London, where I was fortunate in being able to meet my successor in the office of Director, Professor Mitchell, of Boston University, who, I trust, will have a successful year, and find the way prepared for him in some measure.

CHARLES C. TORREY.

NEW HAVEN,
October 24, 1901.